(b) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the time by which the construction work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). The Survey Report for new Broad Gauge rail line from Ashoknagar-Lalitpur-Satna-Khajuraho-Mahoba and Satna-Rewa-Sidhi-Singrauli (627 kms.), has recently been received. The results of the survey are under finalisation in consultation with the Zonal Railway. Further consideration of the project, in consultation with the Planning Commission, would be possible, once the results of the survey are finalised.

[English]

Rural Telecom Network

1136. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for providing rural telecom network during the Eighth Plan and the achievement as on date;

(b) the system being adopted to expedite telephone connection in the rural areas at least in every village/ panchayats; and

(c) the projection made for the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Taget in Eighth Plan is to provide 3.38 lakh villages with at least one public telephone by the end of Eighth Plan. The achievement as on 19.11.1996 is 158685 villages.

(b) Presently Analog Multi Access Rural Radio (MARR) System has been adopted to provide one telephone in each village. Other new technologies are also likely to come in near future.

(c) It is proposed to cover all the remaining villages in the Ninth Plan.

Daily running of Gondwana Express between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Bilaapur

1137. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether requests have been received to run Gondwana Express daily between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Bilaspur; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to start running daily on the above said route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present there is no proposal for daily running of 2409/2410 Nizamuddin-Bilaspur Gondwana Express.

Travelling Concession to Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe Students

1138. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SC/ST students are given travelling concession in second class and not in second class sleeper;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Students, including Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students, of educational institutions recognised by Ministry of Education, Government of India or the Education Department of concerned State Government are granted concession in Mail/Express fares of Sleeper Class in addition to Second Class. They can avail of this concession for travel by Sleeper Class for any distance.

[Translation]

Gottwald Crane

1139. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any deal has been finalised by the Government for the purchase of Gottwald Crane of 140 tonnes capacity with Germany; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. The tender for procurement of 140 tonnes Accident Relief Cranes is under finalisation.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Thiruvananthapuram as International Airport

1140. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspite of being declared International Airport, the Thiruvananthapuram Airport lacks facilities of an International Airport;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to provide all facilities of an International Airport to Thiruvananthapuram Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir. Adequate facilities exist for the

facilitation of the passengers using this airport. Modern Navigational/Communication aids have been provided.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Status of major works taken up for upgradation of the airport is enclosed as statement.

STATEMENT

Status of Major Works in Progress/Proposed

S.No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs. in crores)	Present status
1	2	3	4
	Thiruvananthapuram Airport		
1.	Resurfacing of main runway & construction of shoulders.	6.31	Completed.
2.	Extension of main runway by 350 m.	5.76	25% work in progress
3.	Strengthening of 'A' taxi track	0.74	Completed
4.	Extension of apron in front of international & domestic terminal.	6.91	Work in progress.
5.	Interim modification of International Terminal Building	2.02	20%, work in progress.
6.	Construction of GSE hard stand	1.52	75%, work in progress
7.	Shifting of CCR Hall	1.95	80%, work in progress
8.	Construction of New Terminal Complex (Phase I)	100.00	Work will be taken up after acquisition of land by Kerala Government.

Performance of DOT

1141. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of Department of Telecommunications for each of the last three years State-wise and for metropolitan cities, separately vis-a-vis targets set and achieved and targets set for the current years;

(b) the details regarding shortage and backlog of achievements and steps taken/proposed to make up for the shortfall;

(c) the details of revised targets set for the current year for Metropolitan cities urban and rural areas of Maharashtra with estimates of private and public sector investment proposed; and

(d) details regarding projects cleared/under implementation for various districts in Maharashtra for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Details of performance for the last three years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 in respect of targets and achievement and targets for the current year State-wise and metropolitan cities are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) There was no shortfall and backlog of the achievements during the last three years.

(c) Prior to budget allocation the tentative target was 26.47 lakh lines for the country and the target was firmed up as 24.5 lakh lines on budget allocation. There was no revision of this target.

(d) Details are given in statement-II enclosed.

STATEMENT-I

Details of Targets and achievements or provision of Telephone connections during the last three years and targets for the current year

a. For States

S.No.	State	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97
		Target	Acht.	Target	Acht.	Target (Nete below)	Acht.	Target
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	77000	77857	82000	138278	1485000	150021	123000
2.	Assam	13000	13450	10000	13103	14600	20295	18000
3.	Bihar	27000	37189	35000	44068	69300	33115	47000
4.	Gujarat (Including Dadar Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli)	81000	82187	80500	122507	163100	134832	188000